

The Weekly True Democrat.

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NO. 5.

Good Government; Honesty in Public Office; Equal Justice to All--Special Privileges to None.

REGULAR MEETING LEON SCHOOL BOARD

Business of Month Transacted--Contains Deed Transferring Lincoln Academy Property.

Tallahassee, Fla., Feb. 13th, 1906.
The Board of Public Instruction for Leon county, Florida, convened today in regular session in the office of the County Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The full board was present consisting of Messrs. Davis, Patterson and Boatwright.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
Mr. George B. Perkins, secretary of the Board of Trustees of Special Tax District No. 1, otherwise known as Tallahassee Sub-district appeared, and orally stated that the board desired to recommend that Prof. John W. Wideman be elected to succeed himself for the coming term as principal of the Leon Graded and High School. On motion of John H. Patterson, seconded by Dawson Boatwright, he was elected for the coming term, subject to his passing the State examination to be held at Marianna, Florida, on June 5th, 1906, and continuing for three days next succeeding, and to his obtaining a State certificate under said examination.

The deed transferring the Lincoln Academy to the State Board of Education, as follows, was signed by the members of the Board of Public Instruction:

This Indenture made and entered into this 13th day of February, A. D. 1906, between the Board of Public Instruction for the county of Leon, State of Florida, parties of the first part, and the State Board of Education of the said State of Florida, parties of the second part, witnesseth:

Whereas, the said parties of the first part are the owners in fee simple of all that certain lot or parcel of land situated, lying, and being in the city of Tallahassee, in said county of Leon, known and described as follows, to-wit: Lot numbered 65, in the northwest addition of said city; and,

Whereas, the said parties of the second part are the owners in fee simple of all those certain lots or parcels of land situated, lying, and being in said city of Tallahassee, known and described as follows, to-wit: Lots numbered 216 and 217, in north addition of said city; and,

Whereas, the said parties have agreed to make an exchange by way of mutual sale and conveyance of their said respective properties, the said parties of the second part paying on account of the greater value of the said premises, belonging to said parties of the first part, the sum of \$1400 to said parties of the first part as a further consideration for said exchange.

Now, therefore, this indenture witnesseth, that said parties of the first part in consideration of the said premises agreed to be conveyed to them by said parties of the second part, and also the sum of \$1400 to them in hand, paid at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents by said parties of the second part, have granted, bargained and sold, and do by these presents grant, bargain and sell unto said parties of the second part, and their successors in office and assigns, forever, the said lot numbered 65, in the northwest addition of the city of Tallahassee, together with all and singular, the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in any wise appertaining, and the reversion and the reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof; to have and to hold all and singular, the said premises hereby conveyed, with the appurtenances, unto said parties of the second part and to their successors in office and assigns forever.

In witness whereof the said Board of Public Instruction for the county of Leon, State of Florida, has hereunto caused its name to be signed and its official seal to be hereunto affixed by the members thereof, the day and year first above written.

The Board of Public Instruction for the county of Leon, State of Florida.

G. I. DAVIS
J. H. PATTERSON
DAWSON BOATWRIGHT

Members of the Board of Public Instruction for the county of Leon, State of Florida.

Signed, sealed and delivered in our presence--T. L. COE, A. G. GOODBODY.

State of Florida, County of Leon--

On this, the 13th day of February, A. D. 1906, before me, Henry T. Felkel, Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for said county, personally appeared George I. Davis, John H. Patterson and Dawson Boatwright, well known to me to be the persons who executed the foregoing instrument of writing in behalf of the Board of Public Instruction for the county of Leon, State of Florida, and severally acknowledged that they executed the same as, and for their own free act and deed of said board, and for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of said court this 13th day of February, A. D. 1906.

HENRY T. FELKEL,
Clerk of said Court.

Warrants were drawn in payment of

the various accounts approved, as shown in detail by the financial statement for February printed in this issue. The county superintendent was instructed to attend the Convention of Superintendents and meeting of the National Association at Louisville, Ky., with the understanding that the expense would be refunded to him by the board.

The board then adjourned until the next regular meeting day.

JOHN H. PATTERSON,
Chairman Pro Tem.
E. B. EPPES, Secretary.

Dr. Crill Announces.

Dr. E. S. Crill is a candidate for reelection to the office of State Senator. The Doctor is so widely known in this section that he needs no introduction to the voters at our hands. He has served the county ably and faithfully in various positions of public trust. As chairman of the board of public instruction and in other capacities he performed his duties as he thought best. He represented his district in the State Senate for several terms, and from 1885 to 1889 was State Treasurer. In 1902 he was elected to the Senate, and now asks the voters to again honor him with this position. In the Senate Dr. Crill ranks highly, and is a potent factor in nearly all matters up for consideration. He is a practical man, and looks after the affairs of the commonwealth with the same conservative aggressiveness as he attends to his own personal interests.--Palatka Times-Herald.

Conference College Wins Suit.

A special dispatch to the Tampa Tribune from Sutherland, Fla., says that the law suit which has been pending between the town of Leesburg and the Florida Conference College was settled a few days ago when Judge Bullock rendered a verdict in favor of the college on every point. This was gratifying news to all Florida Methodists, and friends of the college, inasmuch as it means a complete vindication of their action.

The college was located at Leesburg for a period of fifteen years, but, owing to many unfavorable conditions, it seemed impossible to build up a school at that point, so it was decided best to remove to another place. This decision did not meet with the approval of the people of Leesburg, and they got out an injunction to prevent the removal of the college, thus tying up considerable property and involving the college in a law suit which promised to drag its way through the courts for several years.

In the meantime, the conference had selected Sutherland as a more favorable spot, and time has demonstrated the wisdom of the act, as, in the short space of four years, the school had grown far beyond the imagination of the most sanguine.

The Governor Has Some.

Governor Broward has some defenders among the Florida editors in his drainage policy, but we are pained to observe a disposition in a few of them to unnecessary acrimony in discussing the subject. It is a question we all have a right to talk about without imputing bad motives to each other, and the Governor, as the champion and leader of the big enterprise, cannot reasonably expect to escape a fire of criticism from many quarters. Nothing worse has been said about him than that the success of his scheme is involved in serious doubt, and there seems to be plenty of expert testimony to justify this. If he wins out, he will be vindicated; if he doesn't, the vindication will be with his critics. Meanwhile there is no need for crimination and recrimination, for it is a public issue calling for thorough public discussion, and there are none of the elements of scandal in it, no graft, no bribery, nor the suspicion of any that we have ever heard of; hence intemperate writing and talking on either side of the issue are out of place. The Everglades are the property of the people of Florida and they have a right to watch with jealous scrutiny any disposition sought to be made of them, and to express themselves freely on the subject pro and con.--Live Oak Democrat.

Mr. Farris and His Platform.

I. L. Farris of Duval county, is a candidate for the Legislature on a platform which he sets forth in full detail in the local papers, and his first plank is that he "will work untiringly, if elected, for the creation of a State Highway Commission to be vested with power to draft a sufficient number of short-term State convicts as may be necessary to carry on the work of building such base or main line roads as the commission may determine upon, with such aid to the several counties of the State as is necessary to further the work of building county roads connecting with such base or main line roads, definitely fixing the minimum percentage of State convicts to be used in this work, thereby creating a legal necessity to build hard roads with, at least, a part of our State convict labor." Mr. Farris is evidently a progressive man and in that deliverance he has given his constituents something to think about. The rest of us can do some thinking along this line also. North Carolina has the best system of public highways in the South and her State convicts built them.--Live Oak Democrat.

EVERGLADE PLAN OPPRESSES POOR.

Rich Corporations Owning Lands Near Everglades Will Appeal to U. S. Court and Be Certain of Relief.

The action of the drainage Board in Tallahassee Thursday (in face of the decision of the United States Court restraining the collection of the drainage tax against the Southern States Land and Timber Company) in ordering the tax collectors in the counties of Dade, DeSoto, Lee, Osceola and St. Lucie to collect the tax, has raised a storm of protest, as it is considered an outrageous and arbitrary act, as it was generally considered the Southern States Land and Timber Company's law suit was a test case, and this action now of the Drainage Board works a great hardship on the poorer owners of the lands affected.

MAJOR ST. CLAIR-ABRAMS VIEWS.

The following letter from the able lawyer, Major St. Clair-Abrams, will be read with interest all over the State. It is as follows:

Jacksonville, March 24, 1906.

To the Editor of The Metropolis:
The action of the Drainage Board in Tallahassee in refusing to suspend the collection of the taxes in the drainage district in South Florida until there has been a final adjudication as to its legality is so grossly unjust to numerous small owners of lands embraced in the district that I think the attention of the public should be called to it.

As the decision of the board is directly to my peculiar interest as a lawyer I cannot be charged with going into print in the matter for my personal benefit.

POOR PEOPLE ONLY HURT.

The result of the order is that the owners of large bodies of land have now instructed their attorneys to file bills to enjoin the collection of the tax or the sale of their lands for non-payment thereof. This will leave at the mercy of the tax collectors only those small owners who are unable to afford the expense. If the law should finally be declared unconstitutional these small taxpayers will have no relief save through an appropriation by the Legislature to refund them the money paid and these are the very persons on whom payment will work the greatest hardship.

I have received so many applications for advice on the subject from persons in Dade and adjacent counties, and am so busily employed at this time, that I am unable to reply to each individual separately, and must therefore, ask in your columns to give general advice on the subject.

Where the aggregate of this tax is over \$2,000 the United States Courts have jurisdiction under the fourteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States.

Where the aggregate of this tax is less than \$2,000 the remedy must be in the State courts, and should be by bill in chancery to prevent multiplicity of suits and clouds on the title to the land.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE.

Every taxpayer objecting to this tax (if he pays it) should pay it under protest, and take a witness of the payment under protest.

In reply to the numerous inquiries made of me, I would suggest that the small taxpayers should meet and combine in opposition to the tax, as by doing so it will cost them a great deal less.

In cases where lands have been assessed which have already been drained the owners of such lands should also unite and enjoin the collection of this tax.

ALEX ST. CLAIR-ABRAMS.

A SHAME.

On Monday afternoon, the 5th day of this month, the editor of this paper and Senator Frank Adams stood in the tax collector's office in the court house at Miami, in Dade county, waiting their turn to make inquiries about taxes.

An old woman was waiting, likewise. When her tax receipt was written out and handed to her she remarked that there must be some mistake, as heretofore her taxes had been between three and four dollars, and now it was between seven and eight dollars. She was informed by the tax collector that a "drainage tax" had been imposed and that this tax constituted the difference. The tax collector further informed her that some persons had refused to pay this "drainage tax," but that his instructions were not to issue a receipt unless such tax was paid. The old woman said she couldn't go to law, that she would pay it, but not having money enough she would leave the receipt and return for it next day. She then departed.

This occurrence was after the decision of the United States District Court had declared the act creating the Drainage Commission null and void, and after that court's decision that the Drainage Commission had no power to assess and collect taxes.

This "drainage tax" is still being collected in Dade county from the poor and ignorant and helpless.

The very ones who should be protected by the law are robbed under forms of law, about the illegality of which they know nothing.

It is a fearful state of affairs when those to whom is entrusted the execution of the laws, ignore the laws and oppress the poor, because of their ignorance and poverty.

It is a shame--a burning shame.--Jasper News.

Is it possible that the people of Florida will ever elect a single one of those who are responsible for such as the above to office again? We have repeatedly called attention to the high-handed acts of some of them. If the newspaper men of Florida will look into public matters some for themselves, some of them will learn that the True Democrat is, and has been, on the right track, and they will find the trail red hot. There are, and have been, many public abuses that should be corrected. Floridians are long suffering, but the day will come for a reckoning.

For Clean Streets.

Our Mayor, Hon. F. C. Gilmore, desires to have Tallahassee neat and clean. Read the following notice he had printed and distributed this week:

NOTICE.--Your attention is called to chapter 17, section 12, of the Laws and Ordinances of the City of Tallahassee, which reads as follows:

Chapter 17, Section 12.--No person shall throw or deposit, or cause to be thrown or deposited, any decayed fruit, waste paper, shavings, offal, garbage, dirt or trash of any kind, on any sidewalk, street, lane, road, thoroughfare, right-of-way or alley within the city limits. Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall, upon conviction before the Mayor, be fined not less than \$5.00 nor more than \$20.00, or be imprisoned for not less than five nor more than twenty days.

The citizens are respectfully asked to have this trash put in barrels and placed, when full, on edge of the sidewalk or where they can be easily reached by the scavenger wagon.

True Democrat Daily.

The publisher of the Tallahassee True Democrat contemplates starting a daily. The weekly is one of the best edited in the State, and a daily would no doubt be equally as good. Success to Uncle John.--Gainesville Sun.

No, brother, we are not contemplating the establishing of a daily, unless the proviso, as follows, which is causing the rumor, can come about: "Give us as liberal a patronage as the citizens of Live Oak are giving the Live Oak Daily Democrat, one of the neatest typographically gotten up and newsiest and best edited newspapers in Florida, and the True Democrat will be given to you newsy, neat and full every day in the week. The Live Oak Daily Democrat is doing incalculable good for Live Oak and its surrounding country, and is what it professes to be--an up-to-date daily--and not a poor apology for one. Help us make the True Democrat to Tallahassee and this section what it is in its field.--T. D., March 16th.

Duty of a Newspaper.

It has long been a mooted question as to just how far the duty of an editor goes in exposing the wrong doings of a public official. The newspaper clearly has duties other than that of merely publishing the news. Custom has made it the mouthpiece for the public conscience, it is an educator, an uplifter in moral, civil and material affairs and the means through which the editor disseminates his individual opinions.

If a Judge--the man into whose hands is committed the keeping of the life and liberty as well the property interests of the people of the commonwealth--is known to be unworthy the trust committed to him, when reports are being circulated regarding the conduct of such officer which reflect not only upon him but upon the people whom he is supposed to represent, is it, or is it not within the province of a newspaper to make public his short-comings? If it is known that this same judge has on more than one occasion, had to adjourn his court until he could recover from the effects of a night's debauch, and that he has actually appeared upon the bench in one of the counties of his district so much under the influence of liquor as to be unable to preserve the dignity of his court, is a newspaper justified in suppressing these facts, provided they are known to be facts?

These are questions, the like of which at times come to every newspaper editor and, as we see it, are questions which cannot be answered according to any established rule but must be met and answered by each individual editor for himself.--Plant City Courier.

With masterly strategy the Jasper News has turned the Governor's flank and attacked his rear with such a concentration of fire that that distinguished gentleman, from being the aggressor, has been suddenly put upon the defensive. It was a Napoleonic move employed against Napoleon himself.--Live Oak Democrat.

For Rent.

Six room house to rent on Boulevard street. Apply to Mrs. Robt. McDougall. 5-1f

THE WHEELER MEMORIAL.

Elaborate Program Prepared and Carried Out Tuesday--Blue and Grey Reunion.

The memorial to General Joseph Wheeler was held in Atlanta Tuesday, March 27, there being a notable gathering of veterans of the North and South to do honor to the honored leader of two wars. The event had assumed in advance a national character and as was expected there was a very large attendance from all parts of the country. With one exception, the surviving members of General Wheeler's family were in attendance, the honored guests of the occasion.

The speakers included representatives of three great veteran organizations of the country. In the absence of Gen. Stephen D. Lee, commander of the United Confederate veterans, on account of ill health, Gen. Clement A. Evans, the ranking surviving Confederate officer, delivered an address. James Tanner, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, represented that organization. Major Chas. H. Miller, of Cleveland, Ohio, spoke on the Spanish war veterans, and Former Congressman John W. Maddox, a veteran of Wheeler's Confederate cavalry, spoke for that organization. Governor Joseph M. Terrell, of Georgia, presided at the exercises and introduced the speakers.

Preceding the formal addresses in the opera house, there was a parade of the Seventeenth United States Infantry, the Fifth Georgia regiment, and a large number of Confederate and G. A. R. camps.

THE BLUE AND GRAY.

Following the Wheeler memorial on Tuesday, the annual gathering of the Blue and the Grey was held on Wednesday and Thursday. The program provided for two sessions each day, and a business meeting and banquet on Thursday evening. General Julian S. Carr, of Durham, N. C., presided and delivered an address. The program of the various sessions included addresses by representatives of the North and South from eighteen different states and the District of Columbia. Among the prominent speakers present were Right Rev. Thomas F. Gailor, Episcopal Bishop of Tennessee; Right Rev. Samuel Fallows, Chicago, Bishop of the Reformed Episcopal Church; Gen. W. D. Cameron, Mississippi; Major Delmar R. Lowell, Connecticut, and Col. R. M. Green, California.

THAT TWO FLAGS INCIDENT.

Richmond, Va., March 25th.--With reference to criticism of his recent remark in a public speech here that he "recognized but two flags, the flag of Virginia and the battle flag of the Confederacy," Mayor McCarthy has given to the press a statement which is in part as follows:

"I have been the victim of numerous postal cards and letters and newspaper clippings since I dropped a passing remark about flags in the midst of a speech which would make a column or two."

The Mayor here criticised the stenographic report of his speech and continued:

"The association which I addressed was the Southern Ice Exchange. Everybody talked about the desirability of building up the industries, the manufactures, the enterprise and the business of the South and Virginia, and probably what I meant by saying: 'I recognize but two flags' was one way of saying that my interest, and my devotion, and hopes were indissolubly associated with my State and the South."

"I had the honor of making the acquaintance of the star spangled banner before many of my critics were old enough to recognize it if they met it in the street, and I would like to relieve these anxious people of any unnecessary labor by informing them that I am not in need of any missionary work whatever. I had the pleasure a few months ago of giving an order for fifteen thousand star spangled banners and further, the pleasure of suggesting that these be put in the hands of twelve thousand school children of Richmond that they might greet the President with the rustle and color and sentiment of countless waving emblems of the greatness and beneficence of our country. I freely entertain in my office the star spangled banner and the battle flag of the Confederacy and thus acknowledge my affectionate devotion to one and my respect and regard for the other. I have no doubt that I would be more prompt to meet a foreign foe with the star spangled banner than many of these anxious idiots who are tearing their hair over a passing remark."

Editor Frank W. Walpole, of the Manatee Record, puts it this way: "Ex-Governor Jennings didn't seem to last long as vice-president of the Jacksonville million dollar bank. It would be unkind to say that he wasn't worth the money as a lawyer, and as there were no convicts to let, he was up against it and had to step down and out.--Tropical Sun.